

## Holding

*The Day is here  
and we made it to Bethlehem!  
The time has come for kneeling  
and we've seen the Child!  
There is singing in the stable  
and we want desperately to hold on to it...  
hold on to the Star!  
and the angels!  
and the spirit of love!  
How do we hold on  
to the Christmas spirit?  
Why can't every day be Christmas?*

*The world mutters "Be realistic,"  
and sometimes we church people mutter too.  
On our way back from Bethlehem  
sometimes we forget  
what we've been warned about in a dream:  
to return another way.  
Once we've seen the Child,  
we're left holding hearts  
wherein angels dance  
and stars sing!  
Once we've been to Bethlehem,  
every day is Christmas!*

*Taken from the book "Kneeling in Bethlehem" by Ann Weems*



2010 Christmas Joy Offering

**What Child Is This?**



*Christmas Eve Service*  
*December 24, 2010 ~ 7:00 PM*

7:00 PM



Welcome to worship with the Fairgreen family!  
The \* symbol means, "All who are able, please stand."



**Christmas Eve**

**Instrumental Prelude**

Shannon Smith

**Order of Worship**  
**What Child is This?**

**Anthem** "Hope Was Born This Night" The Praise Ensemble

**Greeting and Call to Worship** Rev. Pat Lawrence Shafer

Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy, for all people. To you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

**There is nothing in death or life, in things present , or things to come, nothing in all creation, that can separate us from the love of God, in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice!

**Thanks be to God! Amen!**

(Luke 2:11; Romans 8: 38-39; Phil. 4:4)

**\*Hymn ~ #40** "Joy to the World"

**Gathering Prayer ~ "God of Peace"**

God of peace, you hold the nations in your hand, yet you know and love us all.

By your Spirit, you gather us; in Christ, you make us one. As we come together, show us who we are, what we can be, and where we should go. Through Jesus Christ, our Rescuer, Partner, and Friend. Amen.

**Advent Candle Lighting** Bill Smith & The Nordhoff Family

**First Reader:** Hope, peace, joy, and love. Four candles, four promises continually offered to us by God, and all of them manifest in this one we light tonight: the Christ candle. *(Light the 4 candles)*

**Second Reader:** In Christ we find the hope of transformation, the peace that follows justice, the joy of self-fulfillment in community, and the love that encompasses us in all our diversity, empowering us to make our own unique contribution to this world.

**Third Reader:** In Christ we find light and life, and the courage to be like him, answering his call and following in his footsteps. *(Light the Christ candle.)*

**Congregational Response ~ "Let There Be Peace on Earth"**

**Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me:  
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.  
With God our creator, children all are we  
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.  
Let peace begin with me, let this be my solemn vow:  
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.**

**POSTLUDE** Shannon Smith

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*The poinsettia plants decorating the sanctuary today are given in Dedication to:*

- "In Celebration of God with us: Emmanuel" ..... Pat Gibson*
- "In Loving Memory of my wife, Sue" ..... William Smith*
- "In Loving Memory of my parents" ..... Marilyn McAfee*
- "In Loving Memory of Estella Hall..... Sally Kille*
- " In Loving Memory of Rose Shake & George Stifel..... Bob Shake & Ruth Stifel*
- "Joy to the World!" ..... Isabella Wu*
- "In Loving Memory of our parents" ..... Rick & Kay Amendola*
- "In Loving Memory of my wonderful wife, Margaret..... Don Fish*
- "In Loving Memory of my husband, Sam" ..... Dolores Tippin*
- "In loving memory of my husband, Jack, my parents and my brother" ..Louise Hughes*
- "Glory to God and Peace on Earth " ..... Web & Woody Cole*



*The Chancel Guild thanks all who have made our sanctuary beautiful this Advent Season. Poinsettia plants may be taken home after the 7:00pm Christmas Eve service. Any plants left after the service will be delivered to shut-ins.*

Empower us by your Spirit, O God, to be Christ's presence in the world even as Jesus was God-with-us. Give us courage to speak his truth, to seek his justice, and to love with his love. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm.

**Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer** (Debts)

**The Blessing of the Bread and Cup**

**Communion of the People**

**ANTHEM ~ "Still The Greatest Story Ever Told"** The Praise Ensemble

**The Prayer after Communion**

**Eighth Reading: A Jew for All People (Luke 2: 25-32)** Fred King

**\*The Lighting of All Candles**

(The liturgists and pastor will pass the candlelight through the congregation. Please pass the flame along your row, tipping your unlighted candle into the flame.)

**\*Hymn of the Holy Birth ~ Silent Night**

**"Come to Me" ~ A Call to Prayer**

**"Christ among Us" ~ A Petition**

**\*Ninth Reading: Love's Living Word** (John 1" 1-13, 18) Rev. Pat  
(Please extinguish your candles and leave them in the baskets provided as you leave the sanctuary.)

**A Blessing ~ "Go in Peace!"**

**All: We rejoice in God's steadfast presence in our lives, and in God's unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth—born of Mary, growing through childhood into an adult ministry, in all his life manifesting the peace, love, and justice of God; his voice undimmed by the centuries his call and his promise as clear to us as it was to his disciples so long ago. Come to us, Lord Jesus, be born in us this night, in our hearts, our minds, our lives. May the light of your life be kindled in us, and lead us to the shining truth, of God with us, God for us, God in us. Amen.**

**\*Hymn of the Season ~ "Come, Lord Jesus, We are Waiting**

**Who Is This Child?**

**Introduction** Rev. Pat  
**Hymn ~ #53** (verse 1) "What Child Is This"

**First Reading: Glory Revealed to All** (Isaiah 40: 1-5) Linda Hoover

**Anthem ~ "Is Your Heart Prepared for a King"** The Geneva Choir

**Second Reading: A Servant with Gentle Strength** (Isaiah 42: 1-4) Julie Murray

**Hymn ~ #23** "Angels We Have Heard On High"

**Third Reading: Equal, Beloved, and United** (Galatians 4: 4-7 and 3: 27-28) Bill Henning

**Hymn ~ #53** (verse 2) "What Child Is This"

**Why Lies He in Such Low Estate?**

**Introduction** Rev. Pat

**Fourth Reading: A Servant of Peace Is Born** (Luke 2: 1-7) Mary Beth Henning

**Introduction and Reading** Rev. Pat

**Hymn ~ #59** (verses 1, 2, 6) "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"

**Fifth Reading: Adored by Outsiders** (Luke 2: 15-21) Fred Nordhoff

**Anthem ~** "In A Stable of Straw" The Geneva Choir

**Sixth Reading: Taking the Form of a Slave** (Philippians 2: 5-11) Marilyn McAfee

**Hymn ~ #41** "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

**Let Loving Hearts Enthroned Him**

**Introduction: "The Reign of Christ" ~ An Affirmation of Faith** Rev. Pat

The reign of Christ comes not by conquest, domination, and manipulation, but by gracious love, gladly give, and willingly received. The reign of Christ comes near wherever people covenant together to say.

**Christ, we are your body; live in our hearts.**

**Christ, we are your people: govern our lives.**

**Christ, we are your witnesses: send us out in your name!**

**Hymn ~ #53** (verse 3) "What Child Is This"

**Seventh Reading: Royal Robes for a Rescued People** (Colossians 2:6 and 3: 12-15) ~ Jeff Skinner

**Hymn ~ #31** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

**The Offering and the Christmas Joy Offering**

**Offertory**

**SOLO ~** "There's A Song in the Air" Sally Kille

**\*Doxology for Christmas**

**Praise God whose Son was born this night.**

**Praise Christ who came to give us light.**

**Praise Holy Spirit, Three in One;**

**Let praises ring, thy will be done. Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication ~**

For all who have given and for all who wanted to give, we thank you, God. For the gift of your child Jesus, born this night, we thank you, God. Through this offering, may love grow. Amen.

**The Celebration of Holy Communion**

**The Invitation**

Friends this is the joyful feast of the people of God! They will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at the table in the kingdom of God.

According to Luke, when our risen Lord, was at the table with his disciples, he took bread, and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.

This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared.

**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Let us gather around the table. The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

**Jesus, son of the living God, splendor of the Father, Light Eternal, we gather to glorify you.**

Jesus, King of glory, Sun of righteousness, born of the Virgin Mary, we come to this table to be feed by you.

**Jesus, Prince of Peace, Shepherd of Souls, Perfect Holiness, we bring our family and friends here this special night to honor you!**

Jesus, Friend of all, protector of the poor, treasure of the faithful, joy of angles, and crown of all saints, we kneel before you.

**Christ is born! Give his glory!**

**Christ has come down from heaven! Receive him!**

**Christ is now on earth! Exalt him!**

**O earth, sing to the Lord!**

**O you nations, praise him in joy,  
for he has been glorified! Let us pray...**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit make us one with all who share this feast, united in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

We especially pray this night for those in our midst who have special needs. May they each in their own way and out of their own needs feel the warmth of your loving touch. (Silent prayers)